

The Great Adventure

Jeff & Terri Rains

June 2011

Looking for a Home

Where is your home? This is a question that has been difficult to answer recently. One reason is that our hearts are longing to be back in Ecuador, which was our home for over 13 years.

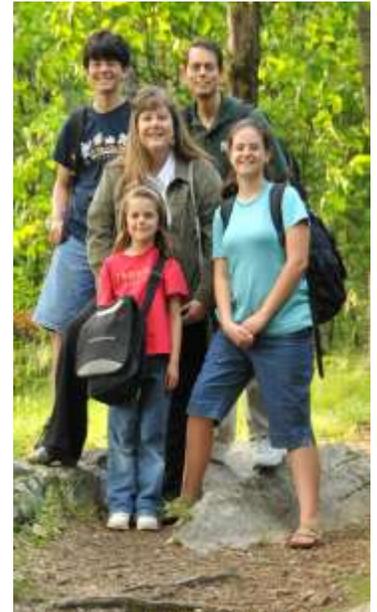
Another factor that makes it difficult to define "home" is that we are in transition. For several months now, we have resided in the homes of generous friends and family members. We have enjoyed sharing with people the vision God has given us for ministry in Loja, Ecuador. We eagerly anticipate serving with the SIM team in Loja in the area of leadership development. Loja is around 400 miles (643 km) south of the city of Quito, where we lived before, via the Pan-American Highway. We look forward to getting to know the area and the people there. While there will be differences and much to learn about Loja, the fact that it is in the country of Ecuador makes it already feel like home.

As we continue our journey back to Ecuador, we can identify more than ever with the saints mentioned in Hebrews 11. In verse 13, we read that they admitted they were "foreigners and strangers on the earth" (NIV). The Amplified version uses the term "temporary residents." Verse 16 explains they were

longing for a better home, which God has prepared for them in heaven. How encouraging to know that God has prepared a place in heaven for all those who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! In the meantime, we continue our journey on this earth, longing to arrive at our next temporary home in Loja, Ecuador.

You may remember that we had set May 30th as the target date to leave for Ecuador.

Unfortunately, the process of raising the needed financial support is going much slower than we had hoped (see Support Update below). It was frustrating to have to postpone our departure date, but we rejoice in the great team of prayer partners and financial supporters God has already blessed us with. For more information about our support needs and how you can get involved, see next page. We are anxious to see who else God has in mind to partner with us in ministry. The process is stretching our faith, but it is a great adventure.

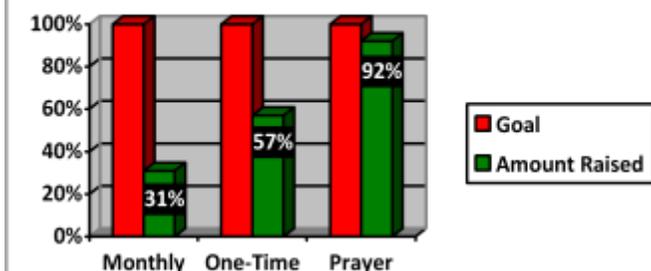


The journey continues

Enjoying the journey...

Jeff & Terri

Support Update



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SIM
Serving In Mission

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How you can get involved

As we have shared in previous letters, Loja is often referred to as the “Forgotten Province” of Ecuador. According to Operation World, only 0.1% of the people there know Jesus Christ as their Savior. God has put a burden on our heart for the people of Loja, and we are anxious to get there as soon as possible. We are ready to leave, but must finish raising our financial support before we can buy our tickets. Here are a few ways you can get involved and partner with us in ministry:

- Pray for the many people in Loja who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Pray for God’s direction and wisdom from above us as we continue to share the vision God has given us and raise the needed support.
- Prayerfully consider joining our support team through prayer or financial support.
- Invite us to share with your church or small group.

If you would like partner with us in ministry, there are a number of ways you can let us know:

- Use one of the attached response forms.
- Call us at (828) 719-1222.
- Send an email to jeff.rains@sim.org.
- Visit our blog, where you can get more information, communicate with us and donate online: <http://jeffandterri.org>.

We would love to hear from you and answer any questions you might have. Thanks!



Abby loves to ride her bike.



Kaitlyn enjoying a good book.



Jeff & Terri sharing an Ecuadorian song.



Nathanael likes gardening with his granddad.

Ministry News

Jeff’s last day with Samaritan’s Purse was April 30th, marking the end of a wonderful chapter in our lives. Now we eagerly anticipate the new chapter and the new ministry God has for us with SIM in Ecuador.

We are thankful for recent opportunities to share about the ministry God is calling us to in the “Forgotten Province” of Loja, Ecuador. Since April 10, we have shared in 11 churches and participated in 3 conferences in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. Please pray for us as we prepare for an upcoming trip down to Mississippi.

On a more personal note, with all the devastation caused by the tornadoes in Alabama on April 27, we thank the Lord that Jeff’s family only had to deal with 3-4 days without electricity and a tree limb that fell on the roof of his parents’ house. We are also thankful that Jeff’s mom is recovering well after surgery for a tumor in her colon and that the tumor was benign. We would appreciate your prayers for her as she continues to recuperate and get used to the colostomy.